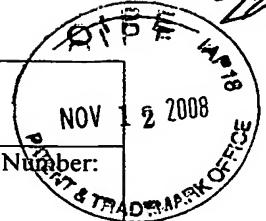


**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

Application Number 10/576,224	Filing Date April 13, 2006	Examiner Jason L. SAVAGE	Docket Number: 52433/842 Confirmation Number: 9443 Art Unit 1794
Invention Title LARGE-HEAT-INPUT BUTT WELDED JOINTS HAVING EXCELLENT BRITTLE FRACTURE RESISTANCE	Inventors Tadashi ISHIKAWA, et al.		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: November 7, 2008

Signature: John J. Kelly, Jr.
John J. Kelly, Jr. (Reg. No. 29,182)

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosed PTO Form No. 1449, shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). The paragraphs marked below are applicable. It is believed that no fees other than those indicated below are due, but authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees due, or to credit any overpayment, to **Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, deposit account 11-0600**.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action, Notice of Allowance, or any action that otherwise closes prosecution.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

2. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

3. Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of U.S. references are not included.

4. The references cited herein were cited in a Japanese Office Action of August 20, 2008 and European Search Report of October 1, 2008 provided herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 7, 2008

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